

In the Claims

The pending claims with status and changes indicated are set forth below.

1-12 (Canceled)

13. (new) A grading rake, comprising:

a handle having a first and a second end;
a holder secured to the second end of the handle;
an elongate rake head secured in a fixed position in relation to the handle by the holder; and

a plurality of tines extending from the rake head for grading particulate matter, wherein an angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees.

14. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the rake head is substantially cylindrical.

15. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines include a truncated end surface forming an angle with the handle ranging from about plus ten degrees to negative ten degrees.

16. (new) The grading rake according to claim 15, wherein the truncated end surfaces of the tines are substantially parallel with the handle.

17. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the truncated end surfaces of the tines form an angle with an axis of the tines ranging from about thirty to about sixty degrees.

18. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the holder includes an arcuate curve complementing a surface of the elongate rake head.

19. (new) The grading rake according to claim 18, further including at least one fastener for securing the rake head to the holder.

20. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines extend through holes in the rake head.

21. (new) The grading rake according to claim 19, further including a plurality of fasteners for releasably securing the plurality of tines to the rake head.

22. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are substantially cylindrical.

23. (new) The grading rake according to claim 22, wherein the plurality of tines have a diameter ranging from about 0.25 to about 0.5 inch.

24. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are uniformly spaced apart from about 0.5 to about 1.5 inch.

25. (new) The grading rake according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of tines are formed from a flexibly rigid polymer.

26. (new) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the polymer includes nylon.

27. (new) The grading rake according to claim 25, wherein the plurality of tines flex about 0.5 to about 1 inch at a free end with respect to an end secured by the rake head without breaking.

28. (new) A grading rake, comprising:

a handle having a first end and a second end;

a holder secured to the second end of the handle;

a substantially cylindrical rake head substantially perpendicularly secured to the handle by the holder; and

a plurality of tines extending from holes in the rake head having respective truncated end surfaces, wherein an angle between the plurality of tines and the handle ranges from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees an angle between the truncated end surfaces and the handle ranges from minus ten degrees and positive ten degrees.

29. (new) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end surfaces are substantially parallel to the handle.

30. (new) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the truncated end surfaces form an angle with respective tine axes ranging from about thirty degrees and about sixty degrees.

31. (new) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines extend from holes formed through the rake head.

32. (new) The grading rake according to claim 31, further including removable fasteners for securing the plurality of tines.

33. (new) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines are formed from a flexibly rigid polymer material.

34. (new) The grading rake according to claim 33, wherein the plurality of tines flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at a free end with respect to an end secured by the rake head without breaking.

35. (new) The grading rake according to claim 28, wherein the plurality of tines are substantially cylindrical having a diameter ranging from about 0.25 inch to about 0.5 inch.

36. (new) The grading rake according to claim 35, wherein the plurality of tines include nylon.

37. (new) A method of grading particulate matter, comprising:
pushing particulate matter with a grading rake; and
pulling the particulate matter with the grading rake such that cylindrical nylon tines extending from a rake head flex from about 0.5 inch to about 1 inch at a free end such that the tines separate relatively large particles from smaller particles, wherein a truncated end surface of the tines travels across a surface of the particulate matter.

38. (new) The method according to claim 37, wherein the truncated end surfaces form an angle with a handle of the grading rake ranging from about positive ten degrees and minus ten degrees.

39. (new) The method according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of tines form angle with a handle of the rake ranging from about thirty degrees to about sixty degrees.